

**MINUTES OF THE  
AGRICULTURAL SUSTAINABILITY TASK FORCE**  
Monday, August 5, 2002 – 9:00 a.m. – Room 403 State Capitol

**Members Present:**

Sen. Dan Eastman, Senate Chair  
Rep. Craig W. Buttars, House Chair  
Sen. Mike Dmitrich  
Sen. Millie Peterson  
Rep. Eli H. Anderson  
Rep. Cindy Beshear  
Rep. Glenn Donnelson  
Rep. James R. Gowans  
Rep. Peggy Wallace  
Mr. Arthur Douglas\*  
Mr. Chris Falco\*  
Dr. Bruce Godfrey\*  
Mr. Randy Parker\*  
Mr. Flint Richards\*  
Mr. Clark Willis\*

**Members Absent:**

Sen. Parley Hellewell  
Sen. Bill Wright  
Rep. Darin Peterson  
Mr. Todd Ballard\*  
Mr. Stan Hamblin\*  
Mr. Richard Nielson\*

**Staff Present:**

Mr. O. William Asplund, Assistant Director  
Mr. James L. Wilson, Associate General Counsel  
Ms. Sandra Wissa, Legislative Secretary

\*Non-voting members

**Note:** A list of others present and a copy of materials can be found at <http://www.image.le.state.ut.us/imaging/history.asp> or by contacting the committee secretary at 538-1032.

**1. Committee Business**

Chair Eastman called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. Sen. Wright was excused from the meeting.

**MOTION:** Sen. Peterson moved to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2002 meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Dmitrich and Rep. Gowans absent for the vote.

**2. A. Presentation on the SARE (Sustainable Agricultural Research and Education) Program**

Dr. Philip Rasmussen, Utah State University, presented the SARE program. He distributed and reviewed the handouts "SARE 2002" and "WSARE Competitive Grants: 2002-2003 Call for Proposals." Dr. Rasmussen explained how the SARE program works with farmers, ranchers, and researchers to stimulate new ideas and help sustain agriculture. He provided examples of different grants that have been awarded in Utah. He indicated that SARE also includes marketing grants.

**B. Other Federal Programs**

Mr. Asplund reviewed "2002 Farm Bill – Conservation Title Spending." which was distributed prior to the meeting. He indicated that there has been an increase of federal government funding for agricultural programs. He indicated that new details regarding monies related to the agriculture programs could be found at [www.usda.gov/farmbill](http://www.usda.gov/farmbill). He responded to questions.

### **3. Preserving Grazing on Public Lands**

Mr. Lorin Moench Jr., Utah Wool Growers' Association, indicated that Utah is considered a migratory state for sheep operations. He explained that most of the state of Utah is government controlled and grazing permits out on the west desert are key in the year-round operation of sheep ranching. He stated that environmentalist, it seems, tie up permits in the courts to discourage ranchers from grazing sheep on the government land. He stated that trespassing is a problem. He indicated that a total rest of the west desert ground would cause it to deteriorate within a few years. Mr. Moench stated he feels that providing incentives for ranchers would allow the Legislature to maintain open ground, open area for wildlife, and other agriculture programs. He responded to questions.

Mr. Arthur Douglas indicated that the public needs to be educated in the special interests of agriculture and the value derived from grazing on public lands.

### **4. Legal Protections for Agricultural Producers**

Mr. Wilson distributed and reviewed "Financial Protection for Milk Producers" and "Requirements for Grazing Permits on State Lands." He indicated that some of the protection requirements presented in the state surveys include providing payments to a security trust fund, filing financial statements, and executing a bond or other type of security interest. He responded to questions.

### **5. Utah Product Label**

Mr. Randy Parker, Marketing/Conservation, Department of Agriculture and Food, explained that the "Product of Utah" program was initiated in 1986. He indicated that the program originally held the logo "Utah Works." He explained that early surveys showed that in excess of 90 percent of Utahns would purchase the locally produced product, if all else is equal (quality and price). He stated that the Department is trying to draw attention to the logo and get companies to place it on their products. He explained what the Department has been doing to promote Utah products. He distributed "Product of Utah – Guidelines" and "A Taste of Utah @ Product of Utah.com." He responded to questions.

### **6. Other Items / Adjourn**

Chair Eastman stated that the next meeting will be Monday, September 16, 2002 at 9:00 a.m.

**MOTION:** Sen. Peterson moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Buttars adjourned the meeting at 10:47 a.m.